

Erratum

K. J. Fahmi and J. N. Al Abbasi: Seismic intensity zoning and earthquake risk mapping in Iraq, *Natural Hazards* 1 (1989), 331–340. (Received: 24 April 1989).

Subsequent to the publication of Figure 2 of the above-cited paper and during an investigation (by the first author) of possible large intraplate earthquake occurrences within the Middle East, my attention was drawn to the exceptionally peculiar isolated but large intensity closure centered just north of latitude 30 N and slightly east of longitude 42 E. In our current Iraqi earthquake file, this event had the following entry:

Ser.	No.	Yr.	Mo.	Dy.	Hrs.	Min.	Sec.	Lat.(N)	Long.(E)	Mag.	Reporting Agency
	174	1953	07	09	21	23	48.0	30.0	42.50	6.6 Ms	BCIS [1]

After scrutinizing the ISS (International Seismological Summary) bulletin for the same period, I found that the epicenter had a longitude of 42.5 W rather than 42.5 E. This confirmed location puts the earthquake on the Mid Atlantic Ridge – the Atlantis Fracture – which happens to be a more plausible and acceptable epicentral location. Thus, no earthquake occurred across the Iraqi-Saudi borders in 1953. As a consequence, Figures 4 and 5 should be corrected accordingly at the same location.

It is worth pointing out that the other two smaller isolated intensity closures further north along the Euphrates river shown on the same map, are the product of actual earthquakes which occurred at their given times and locations in 1918, 1919, and 1930. The entries are listed in Professor V. Karnik's [2] earthquake catalog and are confirmed by the International Seismological Center (ISC).

We apologize for this unintentional error which fortunately does not pose too serious a problem when dealing with seismic engineering ground motion analysis and design in Iraq.

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References

1. Bureau Central International Seismologique – Bulletin Mensuel: *Preliminary Determination*, Paris, France.
2. Karnik, V.: 1968 & 1971, *Seismicity of the European Area. Parts 1 and 2*, Academia Press (Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences), Prague.